

S/N 09/748,796

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Jeffrey E. Stahmann et al.

Serial No.: 09/748,796

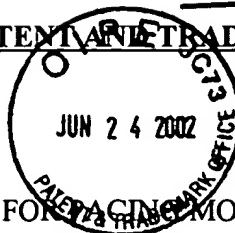
Filed: December 26, 2000

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PACING MODE SWITCHING DURING
ATRIAL TACHYARRHYTHMIAS

Examiner: M.H. Schoenfeld

Group Art Unit: 3753

Docket: 279.315US1



Reconsideration
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RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action dated March 18, 2002. Detailed comments to the Office Action are found in the Remarks section below.

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action dated March 18, 2002, and the references cited therewith.

No claims are amended, cancelled, or added; as a result, claims 1-29 remain pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, claims 1 - 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bakels et al.

The office action states that "Bakels teaches a method for operating a cardiac pacemaker comprising sensing atrial (111) and ventricle (112) depolarizations, having an atrial fibrillation mode (120) and a primary pacing mode (121), wherein the resynchronization pacing is delivered in the left ventricle (106)." The office action goes on to state that "Bakels also discloses ventricular synchronization pacing and rate-adaptive pacing (See column 9, lines 29-37)." The rejections are traversed, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-29 recite, among other things, switching the operating mode of a cardiac pacemaker from a primary or bradycardia pacing mode to an atrial fibrillation pacing mode upon detection of an atrial tachyarrhythmia. It does not appear to applicant that Bakels deals in any way with mode switching or with detection of atrial tachyarrhythmias. The reference numerals 120 and 121 of Bakels cited in the office action refer to the adjustment of the delay interval between a left atrial sense and a left ventricular pace in accordance with changes in sinus rate. The varying of a pacing interval is not mode switching,